Constitution of New Disinvestment Commission

339. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Finance Minister has opined that the newly created department to deal with disinvestment related matters cannot be a substitute for the Disinvestment Commission;

(b) whether Government propose to constitute a new Disinvestment Commission;

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be constituted; and

(d) whether new terms and conditions are contemplated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Government's decision regarding the need of setting up the Disinvestment Commission is independent of the decision for creation of the Department of Disinvestment.

(b) to (d) The Disinvestment Commission would be constituted soon. The terms and conditions of the Commission are at present under consideration of the Government.

Government's Policy on Disinvestment of PSUs

340. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the basic policy of Government regarding disinvestment of the Public Sector Units in the country;

(b) in how many cases, so far, disinvestment in Public Sector Units has taken place;

(c) whether disinvestment in healthy and profit making units have been made, with names of such Units; and

(d) to what extent the objective of making disinvestment in PSUs has been met and how far it has improved the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The basic policy of the Government, regarding disinvestment is to bring down the

Government shareholding in the Public Sector Undertakings to 26% in the generality of cases. In case of public sector enterprises involving strategic considerations, Government will continue to retain majority holding.

(b) So far in Forty PSUs the Government shareholdings have been partially disinvested.

(c) and (d) The Government has no separate policy of disinvestment in profit making public sector undertakings. Upto 31/1/2000 about Rs. 18,394 crores have been realised from disinvestment of Government shareholding in PSUs. This has been deposited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

Disinvestment Policy

341. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that Disinvestment Department has proposed a series of changes in the disinvestment policy of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Department has proposed the formation of a new Disinvestment Commission; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The disinvestment is being pursued by the Department of Disinvestment in accordance with the declared policy of the Government announced in the Budget Speech for 98-99 as under:

"Government have also decided that in the generality of cases, the Government shareholding in public sector enterprises will be brought down to 26 per cent. In cases of public sector enterprises, involving strategic considerations, government will continue to retain majority holding. The interest of workers shall be protected in all cases."

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Disinvestment Commission would be constituted soon.

Disinvestment of Government's Share in IBP

342. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to disinvest Government's share from 59 per cent to 26 per cent in IBP;